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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hemphill LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/24
BILL
SHORT TITLE Grant & Hidalgo Senior Citizen Assistance NUMBER Senate Bill 278
ANALYST Hilla

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY24	FY25	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$50.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 278

Senate Bill 278 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for the purpose of providing funding to a program that assists residents of Grant and Hidalgo counties who are at least 60 years old, have an income that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and are in need of assistance to support their quality of life and safety.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, or May 15, 2024, if enacted.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Following the Geospatial and Population Studies from the University of New Mexico (UNM), Grant County has 10,421 residents, or 37 percent of their total population, who are 60 years and older. Hidalgo County has 1,185 residents, or 29 percent of their total population, who are 60 years and older. Grant and Hidalgo County have a high percentage of persons 60 years and over per capita in New Mexico. The data from the U.S. Census and UNM does not indicate the income of this specific population.

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) says they serve aging adults and adults with disabilities and contract with the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) non-metro area agency on aging to provide Older Americans Act Title III services in the counties of Grant and Hidalgo. The Older Americans Act Title III funds critical services for the nation's seniors, such as providing meals, caregiver support, transportation, creating senior centers, and more. ALTSD mentions that Hidalgo Medical Services is the community-based service provider that provides home delivered meals and transportation for five senior centers in Grant and Hidalgo counties:

Hildago Medical Services also operates a special grant funded program (not under the Older Americans Act or the Non-Metro AAA contract) that provides basic needs support to low-income seniors sixty (60) years of age or older in urgent need of household repairs, rent, mortgage, utilities, and other miscellaneous expenses limited to five hundred (500) dollars per year per household. Even given the current resources available in Grant and Hildago County there remains the need for additional resources to support aging adults in the community.

Ultimately DFA's Local Government Division will decide what program to fund following the criteria in the bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ALTSD recommends that the appropriation should be provided directly to Grant and Hidalgo counties as the criteria DFA would use to determine the program recipient could cause confusion with the counties in question.

It is assumed that DFA would enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with both Grant County and Hidalgo County to disperse the funds.

EH/rl/ne/ss